



ALPHA LANGUAGE
CENTRE

WOCHE 2

FREUNDE UND FAMILIE

LEARNING GOALS/ LERNZIELE

By the end of this week, you will be able to:

- Describe your family members and their relationships to you.
- Introduce friends and say something about them.
- Ask and answer basic questions about family and friends.
- Conjugate some verbs
- Extract key information from profiles
- Say how you are doing

CULTURAL TIP

In Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, it's common for people to introduce themselves with both first and last names in formal situations, and often include some basic family information in small talk. However, Germans tend to be more private than many other cultures, so while you might ask *Hast du Geschwister?*, it's less common to immediately ask about marital status or detailed personal matters in a first conversation.

WEEKLY TASK

Practice introducing yourself in German, this time adding on information about your family. Use these words as a guide:

Name | Land | Wohnort | Geschwister



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GRAMMAR FOCUS



First thing first, let's learn subject/ personal pronouns in German. These will form the basis of our conjugation and must be learnt in the following order:

ich-I du-you er/sie/es- he/she/it wir-we ihr-you P* Sie/sie- you F*/ they

WHAT IS CONJUGATION?

Conjugation simply means changing the verb form so that it matches the subject (the person or thing doing the action) and the time (present, past, future).

In English, you already do this:

- I work → he works
- I am → she is

In German, we do the same thing – but more consistently.

WHY DO WE CONJUGATE VERBS?

Because in German, the verb form tells you:

1. Who is doing the action (I, you, he, she, we...)
2. When the action is happening (now, yesterday, tomorrow)

Example in German (present tense):

- Ich spiele → I play
- Du spielst → You play
- Er spielt → He plays

See how the verb ending changes with each subject?

THE BASIC PATTERN: PRESENT TENSE OF REGULAR VERBS

Let's take the verb spielen (to play) as an example.

Step 1: Remove -en from the end. This gives you the *stem*.

- spielen → spiel-

Step 2: Add the correct ending for each subject:

PATTERN TO REMEMBER:

-E, -ST, -T, -EN, -T, -EN

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- P*- Plural F*-Formal



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PERSON	ENDING	EXAMPLE WITH SPIEL-
ich (I)	-e	ich spiele
du (you, informal)	-st	du spielst
er/ sie/ es (he/ she/ it)	-t	er spielt
wir (we)	-en	wir spielen
ihr (you all, plural)	-t	ihr spielt
sie/ Sie (you, formal/ they)	-en	sie spielen

IRREGULAR VERBS – THE EXCEPTION

Some verbs change their stem in *du* and *er/sie/es* forms.

Example: fahren (to drive/go):

- ich fahre
- du fährst (notice the umlaut)
- er fährt
- wir fahren
- ihr fahrt
- sie/Sie fahren

These need to be memorised over time.



BEGINNER TIP:

If you remember the pattern -e, -st, -t, -en, -t, -en, you can conjugate most regular verbs in the present tense. The rest is about learning which verbs are irregular.



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POSSESSIVE ARTICLES

- mein = my
- dein = your (informal singular)

Rule: The possessive article changes depending on gender and number of the noun.

Person	Maskulin	Feminin	Neutrum	Plural
ich	mein	meine	mein	meine
du	dein	deine	dein	deine

HABEN VS SEIN

In German, two very important verbs are:

- haben → to have
- sein → to be

We use haben when we talk about possession (what we own or have) or family members we have.

We use sein when we describe something or say what or who someone is (including jobs).

When to use which

- haben → ownership, relationships, characteristics e.g Ich habe eine Mutter und einen Vater. (I have a mother and a father.)
- sein → identity, profession, description e.g Meine Mutter ist Ärztin. (My mother is a doctor.)





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Person	Haben Form	Sein Form
ich	habe	bin
du	hast	bist
er/sie/es	hat	ist
wir	haben	sind
ihr	habt	seid
sie/ Sie	haben	sind

EXAMPLES (BEISPIELE)

Ich habe zwei Geschwister. (I have two siblings.)

Du hast eine nette Familie. (You have a nice family.)

Er hat drei Kinder. (He has three children.)

Wir haben viele Freunde. (We have many friends.)

Ihr habt eine große Familie. (You have a big family.)

Er ist Arzt. (He is a doctor.)

Wir sind Freunde. (We are friends.)

Ihr seid Schüler. (You are pupils.)

Sie sind Verkäufer. (They are salesmen/saleswomen)



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LESEN / READING

Steckbriefe von Familienmitgliedern

- Read short “fact sheets” about family members (e.g., Name, Alter, Wohnort, Beruf, Hobbys).
- Mark information about relationships (Mutter, Bruder, Cousine, etc.).

Steckbrief



Name: Lisa Müller
Alter: 25
Wohnort: Köln
Beruf: Lehrerin
Familie: Mutter Anna (50), Vater Peter (52), Bruder Max (20)
Hobbys: tanzen, lesen, schwimmen

AUFGABEN / TASKS:

1. Wie alt ist Lisa?
2. Wo wohnt Lisa?
3. Hat Lisa eine Schwester?
4. Wie alt ist Lisas Bruder?
5. Nenne ein Hobby von Lisa.
6. Was macht sie beruflich?



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SCHREIBEN / WRITING

Eine kurze Beschreibung der Familie

- Write 4–5 sentences about your own family. Include:
 - Wer? (Who?)
 - Wie alt? (How old?)
 - Wo? (Where do they live?)
 - Was machen sie gern? (What do they like doing?)
 - Was sind Sie von Beruf? (What is their profession?)

Schreiben / Writing Task

Schreibe über deine Familie (*Write about your family*)

Beantworte (answer):

- Hast du Geschwister?
- Wie heißen sie?
- Wie alt sind sie?
- Wo wohnen deine Eltern?
- Was macht deine Familie gern zusammen?



Exam tip: Use haben + mein/meine correctly: *Ich habe eine Schwester. Meine Schwester heißt...*



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SPRECHEN/ SPEAKING

Über Familie sprechen, Fragen stellen und beantworten (Speak about family, ask questions and respond.)

- Ask and answer questions such as:
 - Hast du Geschwister? (Do you have siblings?)
 - Wie alt ist deine Schwester? (How old is your sister?)
 - Wo wohnt deine Familie? (Where does your family live?)



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SPRECHEN/ SPEAKING WIE GEHT ES DIR?

One of the most common greetings in German is „Wie geht es dir?“ → How are you?

It's a polite way to ask about someone's wellbeing, often used after saying Hallo or Guten Tag.

Informal (du-form):

- Wie geht es dir? (How are you?)
- Antwort: Mir geht es gut. (I'm fine.)

Formal (Sie-form):

- Wie geht es Ihnen? (How are you?)
- Antwort: Mir geht es sehr gut, danke. (I'm very well, thank you.)
- Mir geht es ... literally means It goes with me... → the German way of expressing feelings. You can replace "gut" with other adjectives to describe your state.
- dir = you (informal)
- Ihnen = you (formal)

Kultur-Tipp / Culture Tip

In German-speaking countries, "Wie geht's?" (short form) is very common.

- Among friends: „Wie geht's?“ (very informal)
- In a shop or office: A polite nod or "Guten Tag" may be enough—Germans are not always as quick to ask about personal wellbeing as in English-speaking countries. In a formal or professional setting, use „Wie geht es Ihnen?“ rather than the informal „dir“ unless the person suggests otherwise.

Beliebte Antworten / Popular Responses

- Mir geht es sehr gut. (I'm very well.)
- Mir geht es gut. (I'm fine.)
- Es geht. (So-so / I'm okay.)
- Nicht so gut. (Not so well.)
- Mir geht es schlecht. (I feel bad.)
- Super! (Great!)
- Ganz gut. (Quite good.)
- Mir geht es fantastisch! (I'm fantastic!)

* You can also add "danke" (thank you) at the end. Example: „Mir geht es gut, danke.“